

Our Ref: PB/yjc

November 2014

To: Members of the Liaison Committee
of the School Parents' Association

Dear Parents,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. J. Rowen". The signature is written on a dark green rectangular background. There are some small, colorful marks or artifacts near the end of the signature.

BROMSGROVE SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2014, including Action Plan

The Minutes were approved as read. (It was noted from the last Minutes that the two parents who had visited the dining hall had found some good things to report upon but also had some concerns about the food).

- a. Chapel Suits – the APH reported that subject to stock reviews it was likely that suits would be phased out (not bought by L4 September 2015). Present U4 and 5th would continue to wear them.
- b. Bus Shelter (See Agenda)
- c. Day House Refurbishment – The DHM reported that this was likely to commence in April. Contracts would be out to tender in January. H/TC/L/Ly would be refurbished. The work would be major alterations and with the School's purchase of the Police Station (from Monday November 17th) we would be able to 'decamp' houses whilst work was being undertaken. The exact order of Houses would be dependent on the contractors. Further details would be announced.
- d. Catering/Nuts Policy – The DHM reported back after the major concern of a parent; our food was now nut free.
- e. Gym (5th Form use) – The DHM reported that we were bound by H & S and the law. 5th Formers under 16 could not use the gym. We also had to have restrictions in place because of intensive use by 6th Formers and externals.
- f. Car Parking (See Agenda)
- g. Sports Tour Kit – The DHM reported back that tour blazers could be used on Saturdays. Most kit was funded by fund-raising events and was specifically for tours. Kit could be used for practices. It was only right that back at School normal kit should be the norm. A representative believed we had a two year lead in for a major tour to help parents plan and fund but that there was an Australia girls' tour in 2016. The DHM had looked into it – destination not yet confirmed.

3.



The DHM commented that it was acknowledged that shirts were 'dated'. The U14, U15, U16 'A' teams were now

Regarding the quality of food at present, concerns were noted. It was an interim period but we did not want pupils unhappy and parents concerned. We kept in close touch with pupils via various forums. Visitors to the School (prospective parents & pupils, visiting staff and guests) still commented very favourably on lunch. Queues were unavoidable but perfectly reasonable. The lack of a proper entrance for a large school and the crowded inside areas would soon be a thing of the past. The APH added that sometimes queues inside built up because of getting children in from the rain. It was not true, however, that because of queues pupils had to miss lunch and go elsewhere.

The DHM had met with the consultant and knew of the plans for September (building and food) and had no doubt it would (rather like the new sports facilities) be another major and very exciting landmark for the School and its children.

Tables

The DHM would look into this.

5. Raised by Hazeldene House

A Level Changes

The School understood anxiety about the changes, notably for this year's 5th Form. They would face a transitional year with 'reformed' and 'unreformed' subjects. The DHM mentioned various potential scenarios but noted that we had little idea yet what Universities wanted (Cambridge had issued a statement) nor had we yet received the vital specifications. Regarding other Schools, we were part of the Monmouth Group of like-minded schools but schools were all so different. There was as yet no consensus at all.

Mr Ruben had reflected carefully on the present information and what might be right for Bromsgrove. In due course there would be a letter and he would speak at the 6th Form Open Morning in late January but the Headmaster would be looking closely at this in coming weeks and it was premature to say anything definitive on his behalf (and because of national uncertainty). Regarding much of the above, it was in the public domain (the future of AS/A2) but he would prefer a more expert view to reach them. The DHM would not minute all the discussion – there were no final decisions yet and those must come formally to parents and pupils from the right people.

The DHM stressed that – as always – we would be well abreast of events and introduce any new system as well as anyone. Staff would be fully trained through Inset. Guidance to the children (and parents) in coming months (and August especially and onwards if a subject was dropped at some stage) would be thorough and very supportive. Pupils

Meals

The DHM would raise with the Bursar again. Parents loved the design but felt it should be near the car park where they were closer to seeing parents arrive and that the present siting encouraged some cars to pick up on the road that should not be used by cars.

7. Raised by Lupton House

Parent's Evenings

- a) The DHM commented that we had been sorry to change the system; it had been much appreciated by parents though few schools offered two nights a year. It had been necessary to change. Regarding the Parents' Evenings doubling up, the L4 had always been stand alone; 5th & L6th were uncoupled due to the end of L6 modules and introduction of L6 internal exams a bit later in the term; 5th Form were 5 terms through a 6 term course so January worked well for them. For L6th 2 terms through a three term course there was a logic to pushing the Parents' Evening back. It actually helped staff – it meant more staff could be free (eg. some taught U6th but not U4th) and it made it easier to staff boarding houses. It was also easier to mentally focus on one age group.
- b) The layout of desks had been a mistake and would not happen again.

8. Raised by Elmshurst House

Plaques/School Meals

